

I have been reading and watching SB397 with interest as a dedicated health professional.

It seems to me that today's physician already have an overwhelming responsibility in the work they do, and adding this additional responsibility to their regimen could greatly increase their professional liability and costs down the road. In my practice I take a lot of personal pride in my counseling skills and my patient care services. Every day, I challenge myself to do better than I did the day before. As is true in any profession, 80% are competent and 20% questionable. This is not just true for pharmacy but for all professions, doctors as well. This fact is another reason to have a system of checks and balances in place when it comes to one's health and well being. So for those who fault the pharmacist for not always doing the best job of counseling their patients, I wonder how they envision that an already busy physician will be able to provide the additional function of dispensing and the needed counseling better and safer than a pharmacist with a minimum of 3 years of professional schooling and Pharm D's with 4 years of training can.

The profession of pharmacy would have not survived its many challenges over the years if the system did not work. When it comes to one's health and safety, I feel a heck of a lot better knowing that another trained professional is double checking the medications prescribed by the physician against a more complete patient medication history, by an individual trained to do so.

So yes, I am always open to finding new ways to make the health system safer and more efficient, but I cannot see how removing the best system of checks and balances that we currently have available makes any sense from a purely patient safety point of view.

Thanks for your time.

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